First Congregational
United Church of Christ

111 S. Wallace Blvd. Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(Mailing Address: P.O. Box 980413 Ypsilanti, MI 48198)
www.ypsiucc.org

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

May 14, 2023
10:00 am

"Witness of Love"
Pastor Liz's Celebration of Ministry and Liturgy of Farewell

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Celebration of the Christian Family

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
You are welcome here!

WORSHIP ON ZOOM -- Zoom opens at 9:30 am Sunday morning.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7643282234

Meeting ID: 764 328 2234
Passcode: Ypsi1882
To join by phone, dial the number, 1-312-626-6799

- Welcome to Ypsilanti First Congregational UCC's Hybrid Worship Service
- Hymns are included in the worship bulletin. A separate hymnal is not needed.
- If you are joining worship for the first-time on Zoom, please add your name and email to the chat so the Zoomie Greeter can introduce you.
- Thank you for choosing to worship with us today!

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT OF
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identifies and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions. All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe, nurturing community of faith. We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

a just
world
for all
ucc.org

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

RINGING THE BELL **MARTY KLEINO**

PRELUDE *Start Zoom Recoding to Cloud **IN-AE HA**

"This Is My Father's World"

By Franklin L. Sheppard

WELCOME **PASTOR LIZ**

- A warm welcome to all, including first-time visitors.
- As stated in our Open and Affirming Covenant (previous page), all persons are welcome in this community of faith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS **PASTOR LIZ**

- **COMMUNITY SHARING OF OTHER ANNOUNCMENTS:**
  - The Worship Leader is Donna Eyster.
  - Greeters are Chris Hale (Roomie) and Dan Kidder-McQuown (Zoomie). Pastor Liz and Dan will introduce folks participating in worship.
  - Please share your announcements so everyone can learn what is happening in our beloved ministry community.
  - Please submit written announcements to Margaret Harner, Worship Coordinator, margaretsharner@gmail.com, by midnight on Tuesday.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

GATHERING HYMN *Microphone muted Standing or seated optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Come to the Water"

3 SING

CALL TO WORSHIP *Responsive **DONNA EYSTER**

Leader: Creator of the human family,

People: We gather to worship you.

Leader: In baptism, we are called beloved children of God, and so

People: We gather to worship you.

Leader: Friends, neighbors, siblings in faith,

People: We gather to worship in song, in prayer, in readings
From your story/our story, in thoughts and reflections.

Leader: Let us worship God.

HYMN *Microphone muted Standing or seated optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"A Heart with Wings"

Cagle/Lyons

LISTENING FOR GOD

FIRST READING **Psalm 98** **DONNA EYSTER**

SECOND READING **John 14:15-21** **PASTOR LIZ**

HYMN *Microphone muted Standing optional or seated optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Called As Partners in Christ's Service"
495 NCH

MORNING MESSAGE **"Witness of Love"** **PASTOR LIZ**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Pause Zoom recording
*Zoomies: Please turn on your microphone

You are invited to share your joys and petitions for prayer.
Please unmute your microphone to share a joy or make a prayer of petition.
At the end of each joy or petition, please say **"God in your mercy"**
We will respond (with microphones muted) **"Hear our prayers"**

PASTORAL PRAYER *Restart Zoom recording **PASTOR LIZ**

DISCIPLES' PRAYER *Unison with Microphone muted **PASTOR LIZ**

O Loving Parent, your Name shines everywhere!
Release a space to plant your Presence here.
Imagine your possibilities now.
Embody your desire in every light and form.
Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom.
Untie the knots binding us, as we release the strands we hold of others' faults.
Help us not forget our Source.
Free us from not being in the Present.
From you arises every Vision, Power, and Song from gathering to gathering.
May our future actions grow from here! Amen.

Use this moment of silence to offer your own prayers.

OFFERING

INVITATION TO OFFERING **PASTOR LIZ**

God has blessed our lives with relationships—joy inspiring and challenging.
In response to God's blessings in our lives, we are now invited to share our offerings.

Our electronic giving platform is Tithe.ly: Link to Tithe.ly

Please place in-person offerings in the gold offering place on the table by the door.

Checks can be mailed to:
First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Thank you for your generosity!

OFFERTORY **"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"** **IN-AE HA**

By Charles C. Converse

DOXOLOGY *Microphone muted Standing or seated optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Take My Gifts" v 2, 562 NCH

Take the fruits that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed,
Harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God,
Spiced with humor, laced with laughter, flavor of the Jesus life,
*Tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief***.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *Unison with Microphone muted **DONNA EYSTER**

Creator God, we offer these gifts so that we might continue to build relationships with one another and with your whole creation.
Bless these gifts that they may bring wholeness and life abundant to all your people.
We pray. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF PASTOR LIZ'S MINISTRY

GREETINGS & WELCOME

REV. CHERYL BURKE
ASSOCIATE CONFERENCE MINISTER
MICHIGAN CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go through the times of life. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends come to the end of their lives. Individuals enter our communities to journey with us. Others leave us, moving toward new experiences, new opportunities, new directions of God's call. It is good to recognize these Holy transitions, these times of passage, of endings and new beginnings. Today we share this time of celebration and farewell with Pastor and Spiritual Director, Rev. Liz Larrivee.

REFLECTION AND CELEBRATION

DONNA EYSTER
MODERATOR

The writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us:
There is a time for everything,
a season for every purpose under heaven:
a season to be born and a season to die;
a season to plant and a season to harvest;
a season to tear down and a season to build up;
a season to cry and a season to laugh;
a season to mourn and a season to dance.

Since March 15, 2020, Pastor Liz—has journeyed with us as our spiritual guide and fellow seeker. Today, the time is right to celebrate and reflect on her ministry with us and among us.

PRESENTATION OF GIFT

WORDS FROM PASTOR LIZ

TIME OF COMMUNITY SHARING & REFLECTION

LITURGY OF FAREWELL

PASTOR LIZ

Jesus said, "I have called you friends." I thank you, friends, for the love, generosity, and support you have shown me over the last three years, for your acceptance of my pastoral leadership, for your willingness to stretch and grow, and for the opportunity to do life-transforming ministry together. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made as I rely on God's grace. You have taught me so much and given me so much. I carry it all with me and am stronger because of our time together. Thank you for helping me grow into the pastor, spiritual director, and fellow sojourner in Christ that I am today.

FRIENDS OF YPSI UCC *Unison with microphones muted

We receive your gratitude, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave us to minister elsewhere. We send you out to follow your emerging sense of God's call, grateful for your time and ministry among us. We thank you for your gifts of pastoral nurture and prophetic challenge. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes as we rely on God's grace. You have taught us much and helped us grow in our faith. We carry it all with us and are stronger because of our time together. Thank you for helping us grow into the followers of the radical Jesus that we are today.

RELEASE AND BLESSING

REV. CHERYL BURKE: Do you, the friends of Ypsilanti First Congregational UCC, release Pastor Liz from the office and responsibilities of Pastor and Spiritual Director?

FRIENDS OF YPSI UCC: (Unison with microphones muted): **We do, with the help of God.**

REV. CHERYL BURKE: Do you offer your encouragement and blessing for God's emerging call on her life and her ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

FRIENDS OF YPSI UCC: (Unison with microphones muted)**:** **We do, with the help of God.**

REV. CHERYL BURKE: Do you, Pastor Liz, release Ypsilanti First Congregational UCC from turning to you and depending on you as their Pastor and Spiritual Director?

PASTOR LIZ: I do, with the help of God.

REV. CHERYL BURKE: Do you offer your encouragement and blessing for the on-going ministry here, and for those who will be called to lead and serve in the future?

PASTOR LIZ: I do, with the help of God.

REV. CHERYL BURKE: On behalf of the Covenant Association of the Michigan Conference, United Church of Christ, I witness these community expressions of gratitude, forgiveness, release, and blessing. The wider church holds each of you in loving covenant relationship and prayer. We pledge our support for the transitions honored here today.

ALL: (Unison with microphones muted)**:** **Thanks be to God!**

PASTOR LIZ: Hear us, O God, as we continue to pray together.

ALL: (Unison with microphones muted)**:**

Loving God, we affirm that your love for us is steadfast and is with us as we change, grow, take on new challenges, and accept new responsibilities. We thank you for your love discovered and shared within this community. We are grateful that you brought us together for such a time as this--for the laughter we enjoyed, the tears we cried, the hopes we realized, and the things left undone. May we find the wisdom to cherish what we have shared while faithfully moving ahead in the new ministry directions you place before us. As we leave here today, hold us steady. Keep us strong. Make us brave. May we trust in the abundant future that rests in your care. In the power of the Holy Spirit and Christ's name we pray, Amen.

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

CLOSING HYMN *Microphone muted Standing or seated optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Love and Justice"
13 SING

BENEDICTION *Microphone muted *Unison **PASTOR LIZ**

As we go from this place,
May we know your love that found expression
in the most vulnerable of human form:
guide us, sustain us, and empower us to love. Amen.

POSTLUDE Please remain seated **IN-AE HA**

"Praise to the Lord, The Almighty"
From *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*

PASSING THE PEACE **FRIENDS GATHERED**

*Save Zoom Recording to Cloud (click "yes")

- Share a greeting with others as we transition to our casual **Friendship Time.**

Hybrid Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Rev. Liz Larrivee, Pastor & Spiritual Director
Tiffanie Waldron, Music Director
In-Ae Ha, Accompanist

Jenn Zibbell, MID
Donna Eyster, Worship Leader
Marty Kleino, Usher & Bell Ringer

YPSILANTI FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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ATTRIBUTIONS FOR TODAY'S BULLETIN

- **Cover Art:** James Wheeler in *Unsplash*
- **Call to Worship, Offering Invitation, Prayer of Dedication, Benediction:** United Church of Canada in *united-church.ca* (adapted)
- **Disciples Prayer:** Adapted from Mark Berry. Emerging Church Movement.
- **Hymn Profiles:** Music by Steven Cagle/Lyrics by Rev. Susan Lyon, was written and dedicated to the Ypsilanti 1st Congregational UCC on the decision to become an Open and Affirming Congregation. Rev. Lyon was ordained in this church and Mr. Cagle served as the Minister of Music for many years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For pastoral care needs and/or emergencies, please call or text Donna Eyster, 734-780-5857.

Worship Next Week: Beginning next week, May 21st, we will ALL be worshiping together on Zoom for the summer. Hybrid worship is scheduled to begin again September 17th.

Zoom Host/Greeter, Donna Eyster; Preaching, Rev.Jeanette Sherrill; Ivan Harner, Worship Leader.

Church Council meets Wednesday, May 24th, 7:00 on Zoom. All are welcome!

Looking ahead:

- **Pentecost – May 28th –** Rev.Jeanette Sherrill has created a Pentecost service. Thank you, Jeanette.
- **June 4th –** Rev.Dan Kidder-McQuown will be preaching. Thank you, Dan.

It takes a village…….

Strengthen the Church Offering is one of the special offering and will be received on Pentecost Sunday, May 28th. The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

Festival of the Christian Home/Mother's Day. . . . At the 9th General Synod in 1973, the UCC directed that *The Constitution and Bylaws [of the United Church of Christ] will be changed so that all language is deliberately inclusive;* and further that all printed material likewise be written with inclusive language. A *concerted effort* to sensitize and educate local churches, associations and conference was part of the action of the 9th GS. The Ypsilanti church began using inclusive language in 1973 while Rev. Ron Eslinger was pastor. Four years later GS 11 directed the Executive Council to begin the process of creating a new official hymnal with intentionally inclusive language. In 1995 the **New Century Hymnal,** which we currently use, was published; in that hymnal Mother's Day was replaced with Festival of the Christian Home.

May is National Foster Care Month. Since 1988, the U.S. government issues an annual proclamation recognizing May as National Foster Care Month. We are reminded to recognize and show appreciation and gratitude to all the dedicated fostering parents and child welfare staff. Most especially we honor the resilience of children and youth who rely on the foster care system to provide support and care for them during difficult times of turmoil and transition.

Weekly Ypsi UCC Community Discernment Gatherings based on Susan Beaumont's book and bi-weekly Christian Contemplative Practices Sessions funded by our 2023 Vitality Grant have concluded. The results of our year-long process has resulted in the Mission-Vision-Value statements which will serve as our guide as we continue to discern God's plan for this faith community.

Ypsi UCC Mission Statement

Having received God's expansive and unconditional love, we act in ways to extend God's love and care locally and globally, striving for inclusion in all its forms.

Ypsi UCC Vision Statement

We aspire to be a community of faith that builds on the gift of God's expansive, unconditional love. We persistently strive, with many others, to find real life ways to creatively use God's powerful instrument of love. With God, we seek to shape a caring community where ALL people can live their best lives, comfortable in a sense of belonging, participation, safety, and abundance.

Ypsi UCC Values Statement

Inclusion. We seek to be a bold place to belong and a courageous spiritual home where all persons feel accepted. Our exuberant welcome is grounded in our UCC Open and Affirming Covenant celebrating everyone--including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, education, physical ability, cognitive ability, mental health, and spiritual or religious background. We embrace language inclusive of our understanding of God and of each other.

Equity. Committed to building equity in all systems, we take action by working for Justice, Peace, and Creation Care in our surrounding neighborhoods and the wider world. We are challenged to learn and grow spiritually**,** to be sent out to serve in a diverse variety of personal, vocational, and community social justice and leadership settings**,** according to our spiritual gifts and unique sense of God's call.

Caring. Guided by biblical Scripture and Jesus' vision of radical, counter-cultural love, we share kindness and compassion by responding with generosity and respect. We connect with others to build strong relationships based on mutual trust, authenticity, and integrity.

Resilience. Grounded in faith and hope in an abundant future, we persistently and organically rise to the challenges in front of us by cohesively pulling together in times of adversity and struggle.

Innovation. We embrace change with creativity and optimism trusting God to open new doors. We take informed risks to experiment with progressive novel ways to worship and serve that honor being in partnership with each other and with our wider community.

OUR MINISTRIES

HOLY GROUNDS AND TEA FOR THE SOUL

During the Omicron (COVID) surge members of Ypsi UCC provided local coffee, tea, coffee cups, and single packaged snacks for the night shift at Trinity Health St. Joe Mercy Hospital where Rev. Dan Kidder-McQuown is the night chaplain. While the COVID crisis has partially resolved, the stress level of the night staff has not. Contributing factors include the long-term emerging effects of COVID, a lack of staff, a nation-wide nurse shortage, and staff burnout. The night shift greatly appreciates this ministry of hospitality and caring.

Please consider donating coffee that is roasted by local Michigan companies. Tea and single packaged candy or snacks are also welcome. Please contact Marty Kleino at Mgkleino@gmail.com or 734-262-1419 to have your donation delivered to St. Joes. If you would like more information about this ministry, please contact Dan Kidder-McQuown at mcq188@gmail.com or 517-240-8413.

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY – WASHTENAW INTERFAITH COALITION FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS (WICIR)

Since 2008, **WICIR** has been working with, and in support of, immigrants in Washtenaw County facing challenges of many kinds. At our inception the primary need that brought us together was to support people facing enforcement action by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement); most often detention, deportation, and removal. To date, WICIR has responded to 650 calls. Always in partnership with folks most affected, many actions and services have evolved as identified by our immigrant siblings, while always keeping focused on our original mission:

To provide culturally sensitive and supportive urgent response to those in Washtenaw County in immigration-related crises; impact local governmental policies to empower and protect immigrant community members; and work toward humane national immigration reform.

Our outreach has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many in immigrant communities have experienced significant challenges as they struggle to pay rent, provide food for their families and other basic survival needs. To respond, WICIR, in partnership with Mexiquenses in Michigan (from St. Francis of Assisi Parish), has raised and distributed $200,000 relief funds to immigrants and their families. We have a waiting list of those still in need and will continue this effort as funds are available.

For information about what's happening with immigrant rights and **Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights**, or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Melanie Harner at melharner@gmail.com or through the WICIR website: https://wicir.org/. You can also find a link on the church website.

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION

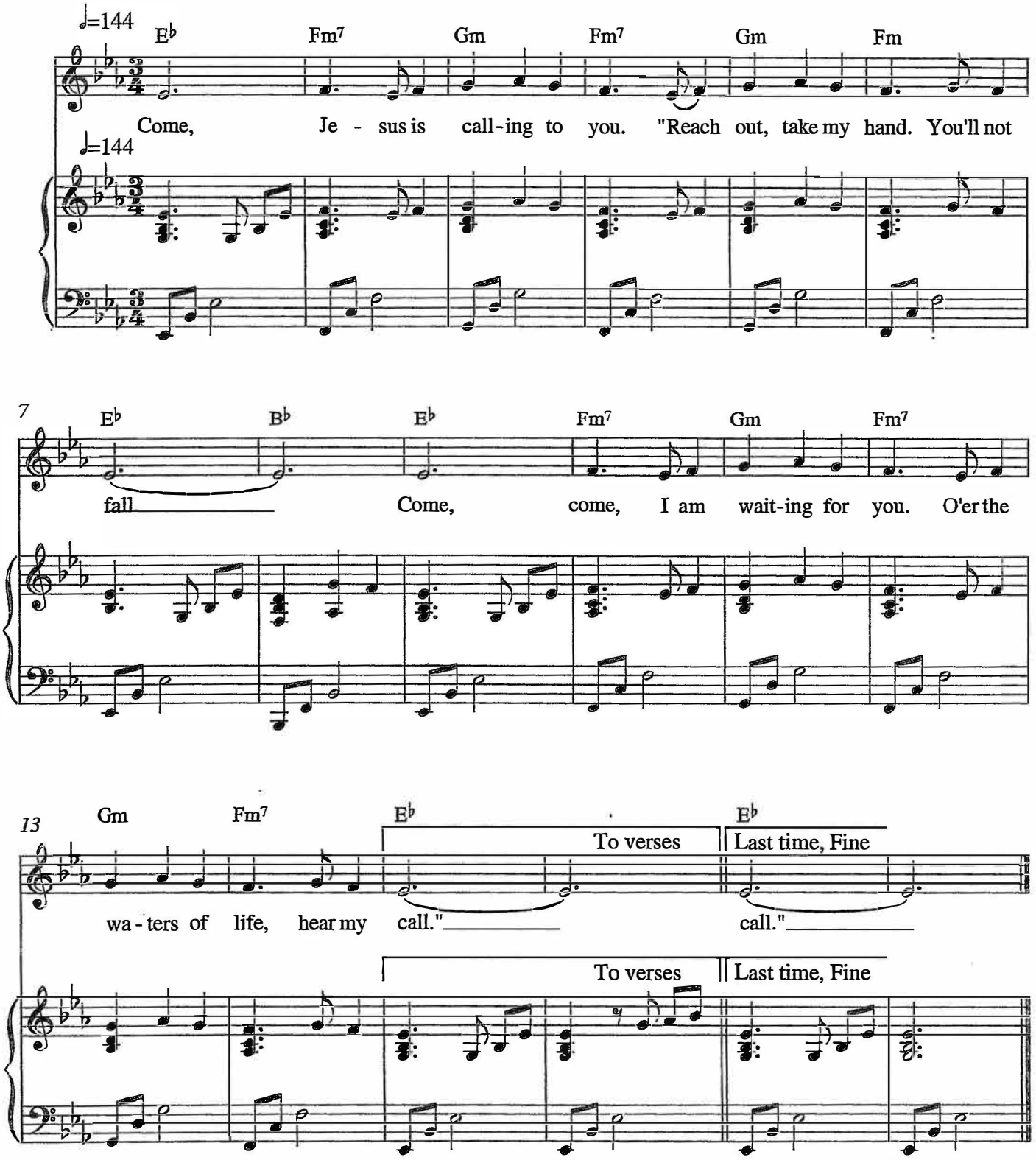
First Congregational is a founding institution of the local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition)**. In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. WeROC members are, at our core, focused on intentionally re-weaving the frayed fabric of community at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated. Especially in this time when so many are being hit by the health and economic crises, WeROC's focus on raising voices of those most affected is more important than ever (See COVID-19 Resources at www.werocmi.org) WeROC's Mission Statement is:

WeROC brings together faith, labor, community organizations, and individuals to build the healthy collective power needed to break down the systems that sustain injustice, racism, and economic inequality.

WeROC is affiliated with the Detroit Metro organization MOSES and the Gamliel National Network. Contact Tad Wysor at tadwysor@gmail.com or 734-883-3225.

This past election year showed us good things can happen when we're working together in the same direction. WeROC is moving rapidly **forward** to keep momentum going and find ways to continue to be more effective together in making our communities healthier and more vibrant places; improving the lives of *everyone* in big ways-- especially those who are most vulnerable and whose voice have seldom been heard.

Come to the Waters



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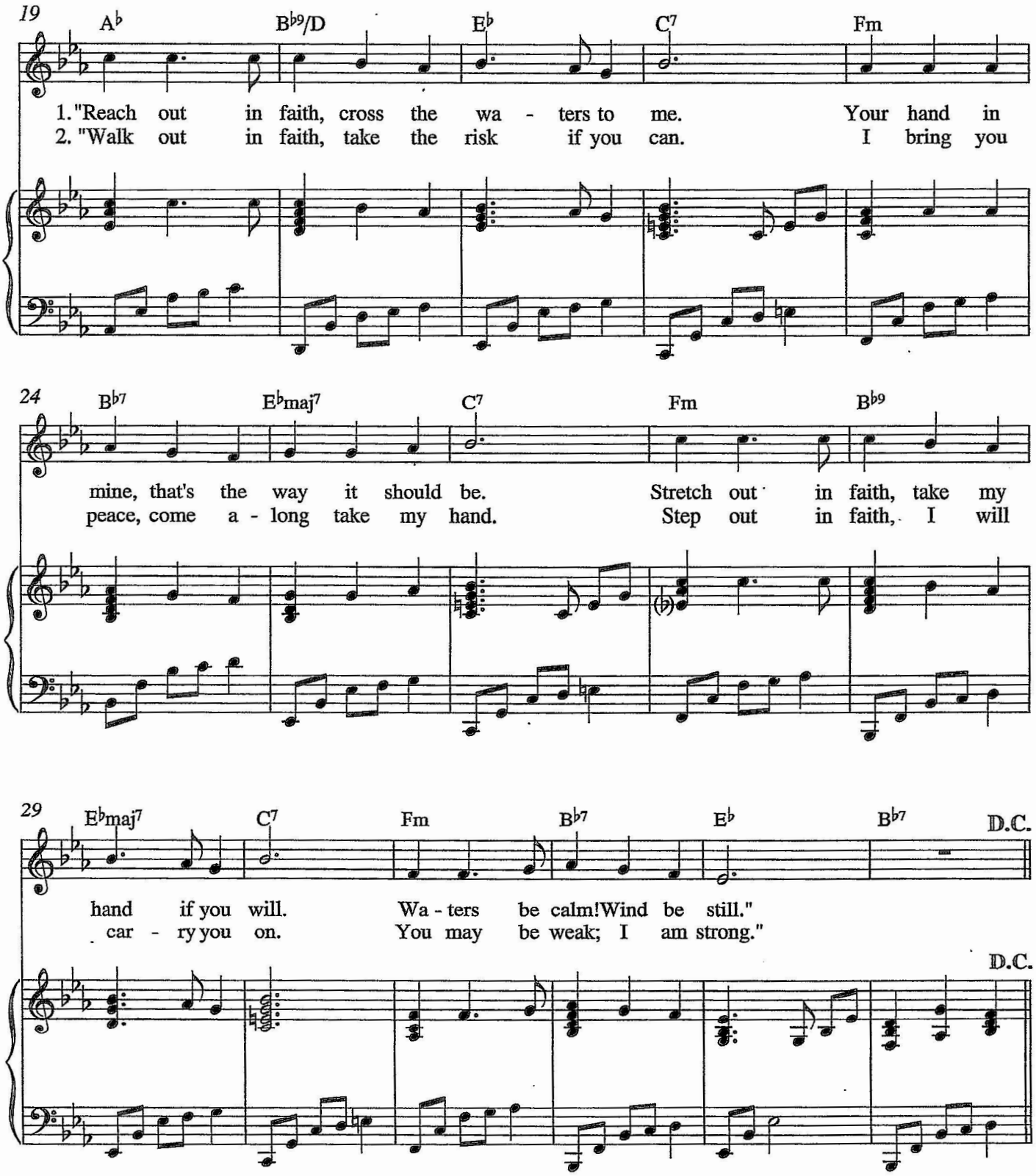
Verses


19
A♭
B♭9/D
E♭
C7
Fm
1. "Reach out in faith, cross the wa - ters to me. Your hand in
2. "Walk out in faith, take the risk if you can. I bring you
24
B♭7
E♭maj7
C7
Fm
B♭9
mine, that's the way it should be. Stretch out in faith, take my
peace, come a - long take my hand. Step out in faith, I will
29
E♭maj7
C7
Fm
B♭7
E♭
B♭7
D.C.
hand if you will. Wa - ters be calm! Wind be still."
car - ry you on. You may be weak; I am strong."
D.C.

A Heart with Wings

A hymn to celebrate the open and affirming people of faith
at First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti, Michigan

The Rev. Susan Lyon

Steven Cagle

Set free, just to be hu - man, God bids us love all liv - ing things.

Set free, we'll soar like ea - gles, No cage can hold a heart with wings.

1. God is with us in our dream - ing of a day we pray is near; When we
2. God is with us in our griev - ing for our broth - ers, sis - ters, all who are
3. God is with us in our be - ing, born of spir - it, formed from clay, and cre -
4. God is with us in our liv - ing, proud to love, let us em - brace this our

all reach past the la - bels, break from pris - ons built of fear; When our care for one an - oth - er sows re-
ach - ing with re - jec - tion, scared by ha - tred's spik - y wall. For our friends whose on - ly choice was to be
at - ed in God's likeness, we each choose our sa - cred way. Yes, the spir - it is the fire in each
jour - ney to sow jus - tice, to plant kind - ness, to reap grace. Arm in arm, we're pil - grims shar - ing joys and

To refrain

spect and self es - teem; Sure - ly our God has set us free to dream.
shunned or to de - ceive; Sure - ly our God has set us free to grieve.
hu - man face we see; Sure - ly our God has set us free to be.
tears our road will give; Sure - ly our God has set us free to live.

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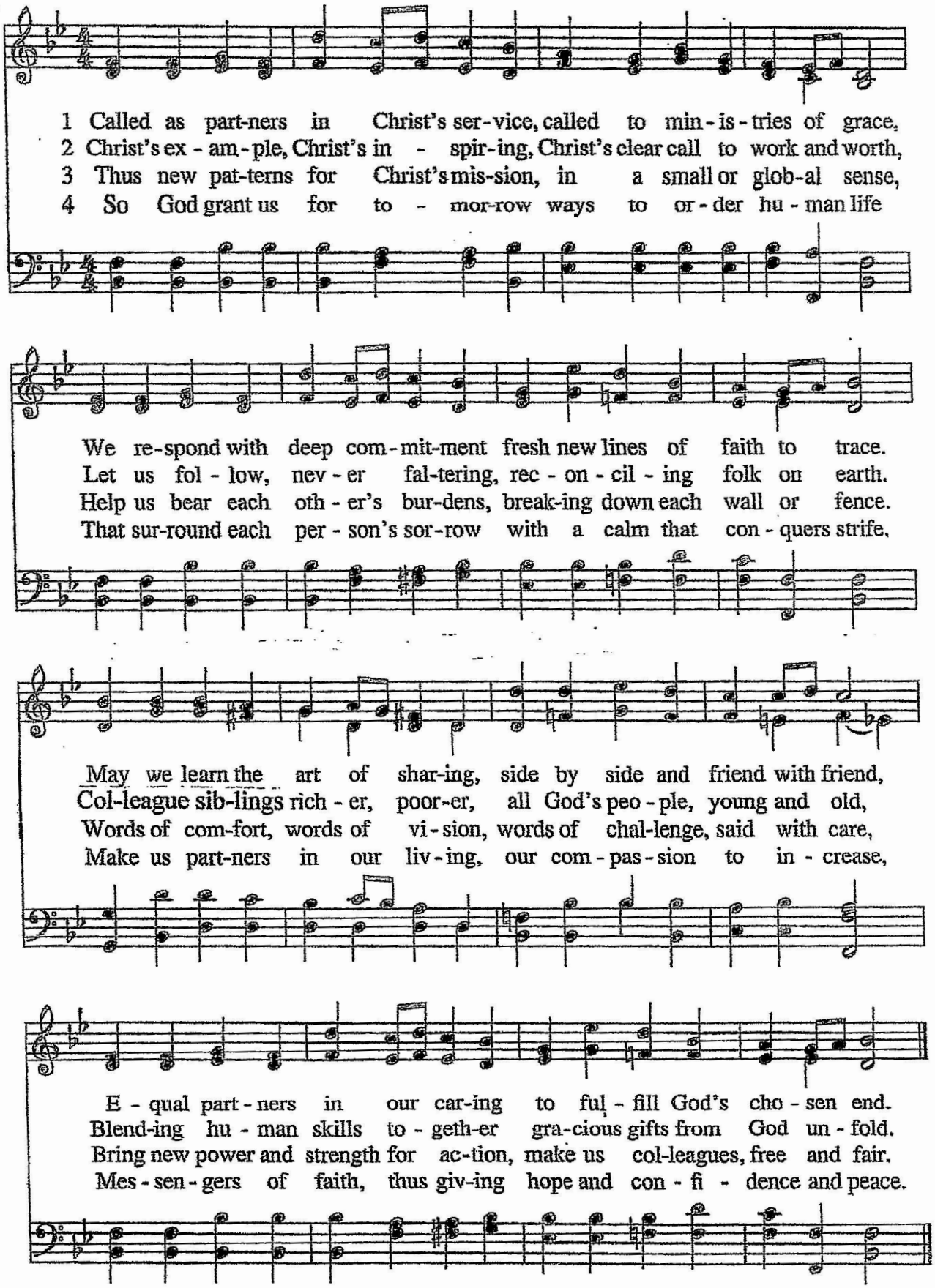
Called as Partners in Christ's Service 495

Jane Parker Huber, 1981 — *John 15:12–17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14–22*



One of Jane Parker Huber's most widely sung texts, this hymn was originally written for a women's breakfast at the 1981 Presbyterian General Assembly meeting to celebrate the partnership of women and men in service of the church.

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.
John Zundel, 1855
For another key, see 43, 368

Love and Justice

1/2

♩=96

G Am A7

Love and jus - tice, peace and pow'r, show us how to live each
jus - tice, peace and pow'r, chal-lenge us to give each
neigh - bors, tell your friends, here's a place hope nev - er

5

D7sus D Bm Em

hour, raise us up and set us free, show us
hour, raise us up and set us free, give us
ends. Love and jus - tice, peace and pow'r! God is

8

Am7 A7 D7sus D D7sus

1.2. 3.

how to live and be. 2. Love and hour! God is
joy for all to see. 3. Tell your
with us in this

Words: June Christine Goudey; Music: John Glenn Paton
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Piano Arrangement: Neal Richardson, Copyright ©2009. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

13

2/2

11

G C/G G

with us in this hour! God is with us in this

14

C/G Cm/G Cm/D G

hour! God is with us in this hour!